

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 191726Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7468

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4624

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FEDYAEEN "SPOLING" OPERATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 2298 (NOTAL)

1. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S SUGGESTION (REFTEL) THAT DANGER WHICH FURTHER TERROTIST OR CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS MOUNTED BY PFLP/GC OR OTHER FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS IN NEAR FUTURE COULD SPELL FOR ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF THOSE ARAB GOVTS. CAPABLE OF EXERCISING MODERATING INFLUENCE ON PLO LEADERSHIP. WE MUST POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIONS LIKELY TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON GROUND UNLESS AND UNTIL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED ON
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GOLAN FRONT. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT BOTH ARAB GOVTS. AND

FEDAYEEN "MODERATES" ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO SEE WHICH WAY SETTLEMENT PROCESS DEVELOPS AND WOULD BE LOATH TO "LEAN ON" FEDAYEEN DIE-HARDS UNTIL THEY HAVE MORE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL CONTINUE.

2. IN MEANTIME, IT REMAINS OUR FEAR--SHARED BY HIGH LEVEL GOL OFFICIALS AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS OF FEDAYEEN HERE--THAT PFLP/GC, PFLP AND OTHER ANTI-SETTLEMENT FEDAYEEN EXTERMISTS WILL IMPLEMENT THEIR VOWS TO MOUNT ADDITIONAL "SPOILING" OPERATIONS AND THAT OTHER FEDAYEEN GROUPS MAY FIND IT ADVISABLE RESUME CROSS-BORDER OR (IN CASE OF BSO) TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN ORDER NOT BE OUTDONE--NOTWITHSTANDING APRIL 17 REAFFIRMATION BY 'ARAFAT AND PLO HIGHT POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS IN LEBANON (CLAP) OF EARLIER PLO EX COMM "DECISION" TO CEASE "PERIPHERAL OPERATION" AGAINST ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY FROM SOUTH LEBANON. WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT SA'IQA MIGHT AGAIN BECOME ACTIVE IN SOUTH LEBANON AS PART OF CURRENT SARG EFFORT TO HEAT IT ITS CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL IN HOPES OF ACHIEVING DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO SYRIA.

3. AS FUTHER EVIDENCE OF PLO LEADERSHIP'S INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO CHALLENGE FEDAYEEN DIE-HARDS ON BASIC POLICY ISSUE (DIFFERENCES OVER WHICH HAVE PROMPTED "SPOLING" OPERATION ON PART OF PFLP/GC), WE NOTE ANNOUNCEMENT INPLO (Wafa) DAILY BULLETIN APRIL 18 THAT LONG-OVERDUE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY JUNE.

GODLEY

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